

4-5272

28 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Executive Order Establishing the Operations
Coordinating Board

25X1A

1. [REDACTED] forwarded to you on 27 August a letter from the Assistant Attorney General and the Department of Justice's redraft of the Executive Order establishing the Operations Coordinating Board. The changes are simple: (1) wording is added to make certain that the Board has only advisory functions as opposed to directive powers, and (2) the provision for employing an Executive Officer and a staff has been deleted. Both changes are, I believe, soundly based in law and are not objectionable from the point of view of this Agency.

2. Technically, there is no requirement for an Executive Order for a Board of the type now contemplated in the Department of Justice's draft, as interdepartmental coordinating committees can be set up by arrangements between the departments. As I understand it, the prime purpose of the Executive Order is to give the Board prestige and to clarify its scope.

3. The one main difference from our point of view in making the Board purely advisory is that we may have to go to the National Security Council or the President for direction in certain cases where in the past we have depended on instructions from the Psychological Strategy Board.

4. As to the elimination of the staff for the Operations Coordinating Board, the basic point of law involved was raised in the Director's letter of 18 July 1953 to the Bureau of the Budget commenting on the original draft of the Executive Order. If such an interdepartmental Board wishes to hire its own staff, provision therefor must be made either in the appropriation acts or substantive statutes. As now provided, the Executive Officer will be supplied by detail from one of the interested agencies. Presumably, they will turn to CIA for the top-level details, asking for supergrades. This, I believe, may require discussion with the Bureau of the Budget and possibly the Comptroller General, but as we now have the supergrade positions of the Psychological Strategy Board staff on our rolls, I see no great difficulty.

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/S/
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

cc: DD/P

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